MARVEL
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DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
pollard
D.D. AND THE BLACK WIDOW DISCOVER--
THE SWAMP HOLDS MANY HORRORS!

DENNY O'NEIL SCRIPTER | DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI PENCILER | KIM DeMULDER INKER | KEN FEDUNIEWICZ COLORIST

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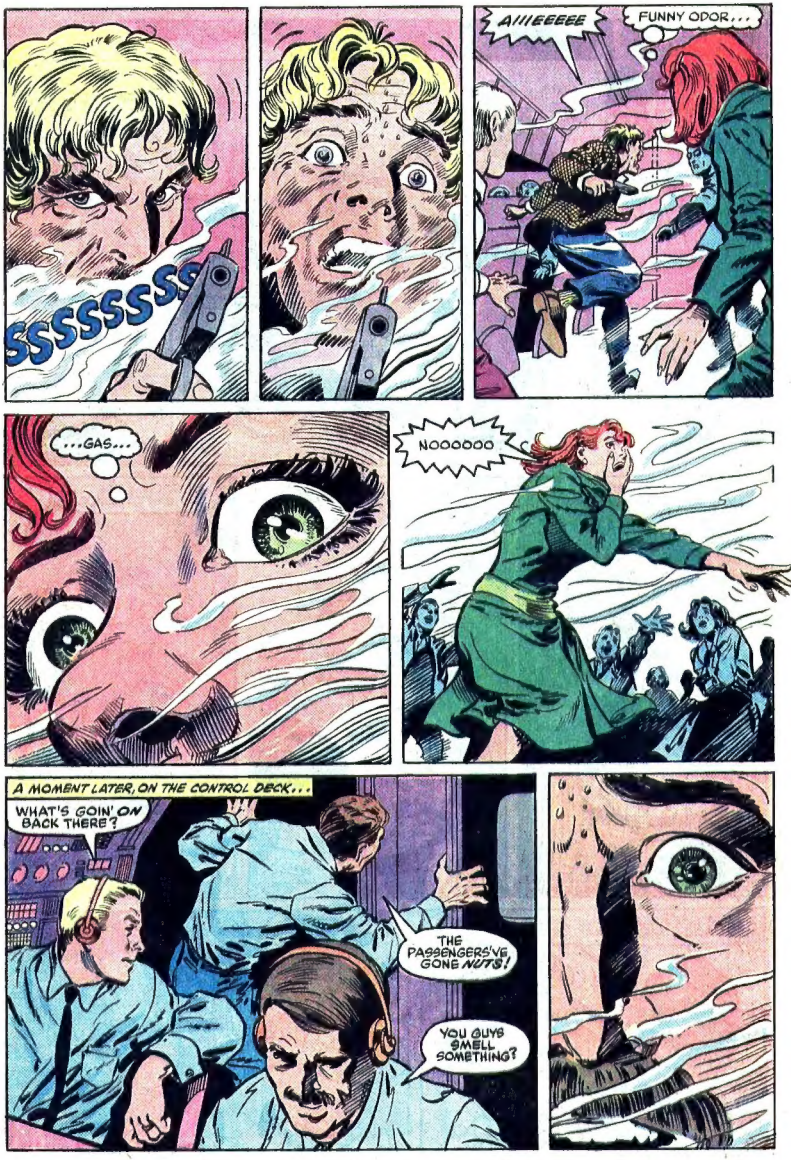
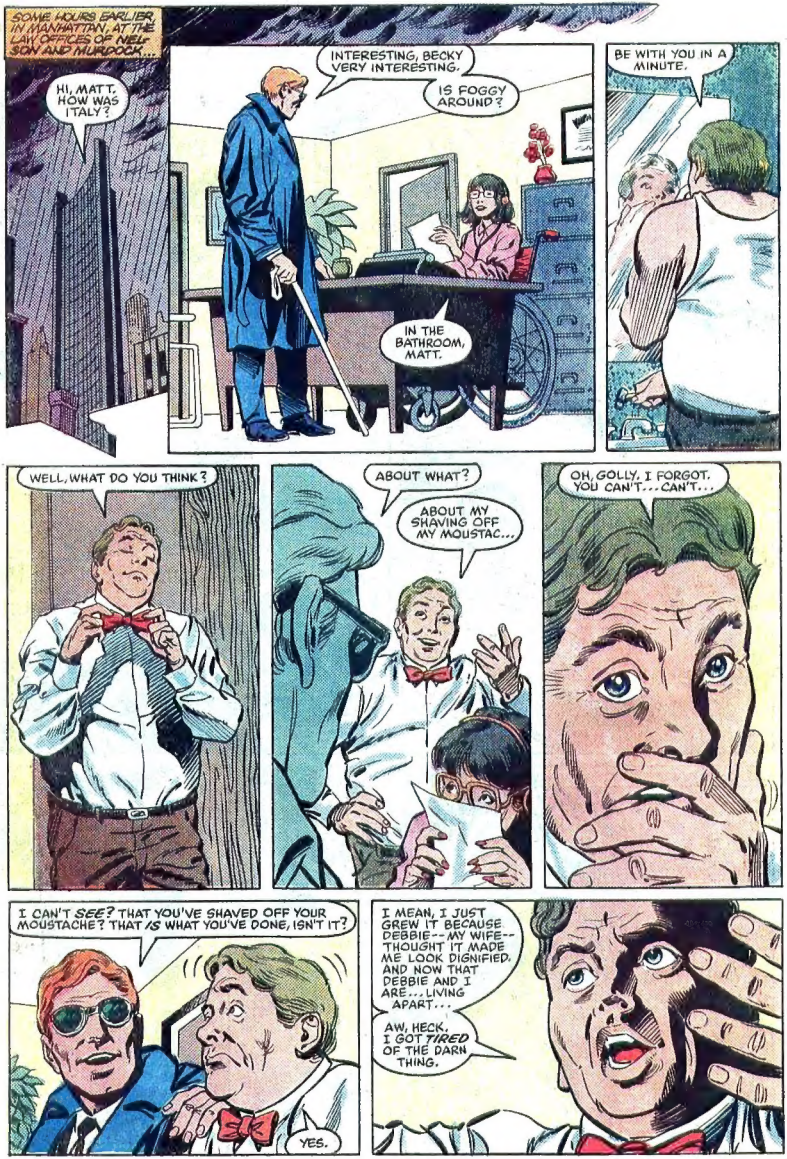
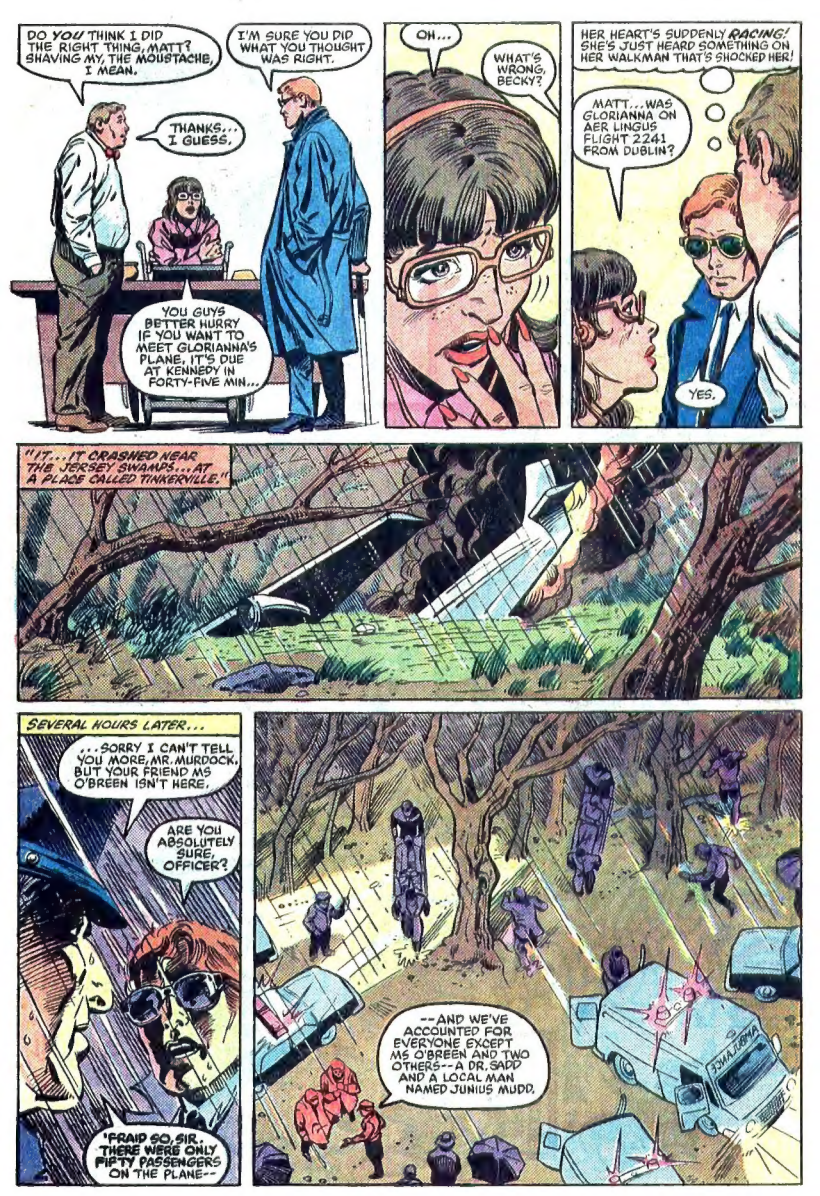
THIS IS AER LINGUS FLIGHT NUMBER 2241, ORIGINATING AT DUBLIN AND BOUND FOR KENNEDY.
IT WILL NEVER ARRIVE.
STEWARDESS--
--TELL THE PILOT TO PUT THIS CRATE DOWN AT THE TINKERVILLE AIRPORT.
TINKERVILLE??? BUT...SIR, THAT'S A TINY FIELD, IT'S TOO SMALL FOR A PLANE THIS BIG--
DON'T GIMME NO EXCUSES! JUST DO IT!
A MAN... WITH A WEE PLASTIC GUN--THE KIND THAT THE DETEC-TORS DON'T DETECT.
A MAN OF VIOLENCE...BLOODSHED ...THE THINGS I'VE SEEN SO MUCH OF AT HOME.
IS THERE NO ESCAPIN' THEM, THEN?
NO!
BLAMM
SUDDEN, SHATTERING THE NEAR-SILENCE OF THE CABIN--
--THE SHOT SENDS A BULLET INTO AN UNEXPECTED TARGET...
F-S-S-S-S


SSSSSSS
AIIIEEEEE
FUNNY ODOR...
...GAS...
NOOOOOO
A MOMENT LATER, ON THE CONTROL DECK...
WHAT'S GOIN' ON BACK THERE?
THE PASSENGERS'VE GONE NUTS!
YOU GUYS SMELL SOMETHING?

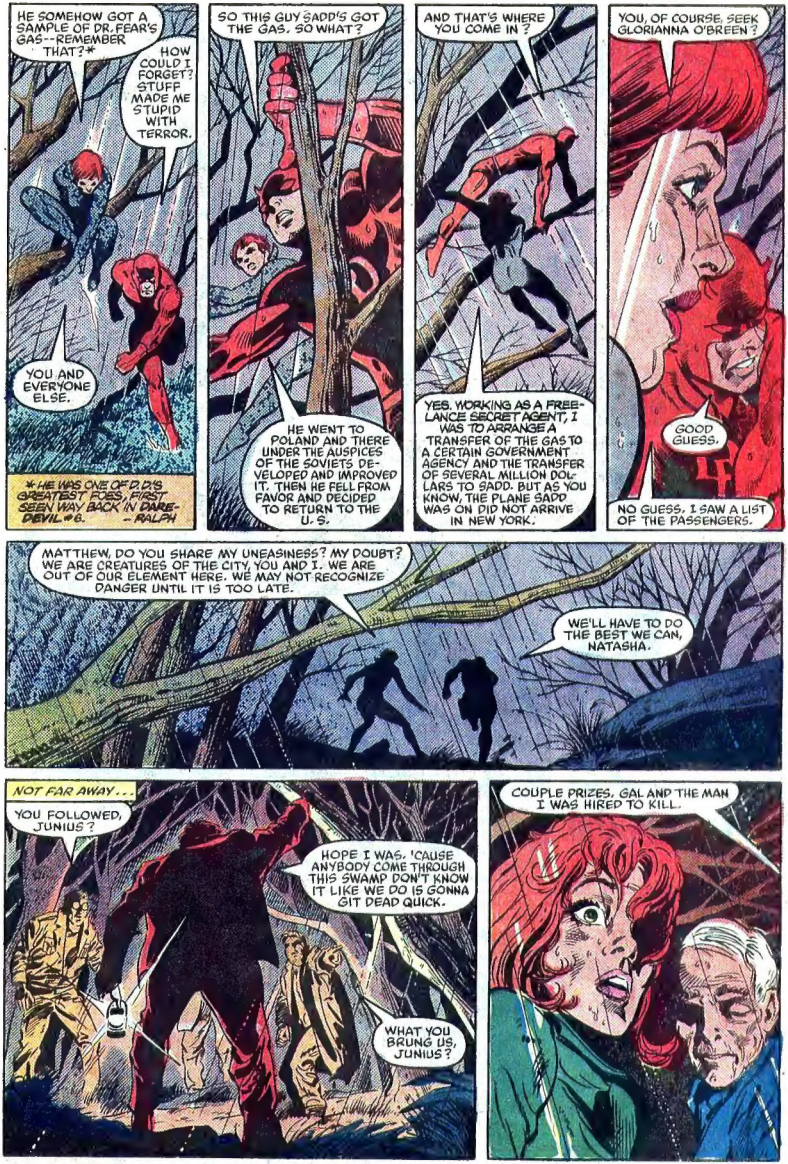

SOME HOURS EARLIER IN MANHATTAN, AT THE LAW OFFICES OF NELSON AND MURDOCK...
HI, MATT. HOW WAS ITALY?
INTERESTING, BECKY VERY INTERESTING.
IS FOGGY AROUND?
IN THE BATHROOM, MATT.
BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ABOUT WHAT?
ABOUT MY SHAVING OFF MY MOUSTAC...
OH, GOLLY, I FORGOT. YOU CAN'T... CAN'T...
I CAN'T SEE? THAT YOU'VE SHAVED OFF YOUR MOUSTACHE? THAT IS WHAT YOU'VE DONE, ISN'T IT?
YES.
I MEAN, I JUST GREW IT BECAUSE DEBBIE--MY WIFE--THOUGHT IT MADE ME LOOK DIGNIFIED. AND NOW THAT DEBBIE AND I ARE... LIVING APART...
AW, HECK. I GOT TIRED OF THE DARN THING.


DO YOU THINK I DID THE RIGHT THING, MATT? SHAVING MY, THE MOUSTACHE, I MEAN.
I'M SURE YOU DID WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS RIGHT.
THANKS... I GUESS.
YOU GUYS BETTER HURRY IF YOU WANT TO MEET GLORIANNA'S PLANE. IT'S DUE AT KENNEDY IN FORTY-FIVE MIN...
OH...
WHAT'S WRONG, BECKY?
HER HEART'S SUDDENLY RACING! SHE'S JUST HEARD SOMETHING ON HER WALKMAN THAT'S SHOCKED HER!
MATT...WAS GLORIANNA ON AER LINGUS FLIGHT 2241 FROM DUBLIN?
YES.
"IT...IT CRASHED NEAR THE JERSEY SWAMPS...AT A PLACE CALLED TINKERVILLE."
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
...SORRY I CAN'T TELL YOU MORE, MR. MURDOCK, BUT YOUR FRIEND MS O'BREEN ISN'T HERE.
ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE, OFFICER?
'FRAID SO, SIR. THERE WERE ONLY FIFTY PASSENGERS ON THE PLANE--
--AND WE'VE ACCOUNTED FOR EVERYONE EXCEPT MS O'BREEN AND TWO OTHERS--A DR. SADD AND A LOCAL MAN NAMED JUNIUS MUDD.

WHAT I FIGURE HAPPENED IS, THEY WERE...WELL, THEIR BODIES WERE THROWN CLEAR. WE'LL FIND 'EM WHEN THE RAIN STOPS.
BODIES... DEATH--
...ANOTHER WOMAN DEAD? LIKE ELEKTRA? LIKE HEATHER? ANOTHER OF MY WOMEN DEAD?
NO!
NO...IT CAN'T BE HER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I HEARD ABOUT THE CRASH ON THE RADIO AND I FELT I HAD TO COME.
GLORIANNA IS MY NIECE, REMEMBER?
SURE, DEBBIE. IT'S JUST THAT I GUESS I DIDN'T EXPECT MY WIFE TO SHOW...THAT IS, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU!
GOOD TO SEE YOU! REALLY GOOD TO SEE YOU! I MEAN IT.
LISTEN, SWEETHEART, WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS THING TOGETHER! YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME--
DEBORAH!?

THERE YOU ARE, MY PRECIOUS!
FRANKLIN, THIS IS MY...MY FRIEND CARLETON CORONA. CARLETON, FRANKLIN NELSON!
A PLEASURE, MR. NELSON.
PLEASTAMEETCHA.
WELL...BYE.
POOR FOGGY--
--HE OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT HE WAS IN FOR A RECONCILIATION. WHAT A RUDE DISAPPOINTMENT!
BUT HE WILL LIVE. AND I AM NOT SO CERTAIN THAT THAT IS TRUE OF HIS PARTNER, MATTHEW MURDOCK--
"--ALSO KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL!"
SWAMP...NOT EXACTLY MY ELEMENT! BUT I WILL NOT LET GLORI BE LOST! BE DEAD!
EVEN THOUGH I'M BLIND, MY OTHER, HEIGHTENED SENSES MAKE SWINGING AROUND THE CITY A BREEZE.
BUT ALL THIS RAIN AND CLUSTERED TREES IS GOING TO MAKE IT TOUGH FOR MY RADAR SENSE TO DO ANY TRACKING. NO MATTER.
I'LL FIND HER ...SOMEHOW!
EH--? SOMEONE'S FOLLOWING ME!

STRANGE ENVIRONMENT...UNFAMILIAR SMELLS AND TEXTURES...RADAR SENSE IS CONFUSED BY SHAPES AND RAIN...CAN'T TELL ANYTHING ABOUT THE PERSON--
--EXCEPT THAT THEY'RE MOVING QUIETLY...AND THEY'RE VERY GOOD AT IT...AND THAT MEANS THEY'VE HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE SNEAKING UP ON PEOPLE...AND THAT MEANS THEY'RE PROBABLY NOT NICE!
BLACK WIDOW, MY FAVORITE RUSSIAN LADY! WE CAN'T GO ON MEETING LIKE THIS.
TRUE, MATTHEW. FOR IF WE DO, WE WILL EITHER FALL IN LOVE AGAIN OR DO EACH OTHER GRAVE BODILY HARM.
EITHER ONE WOULD BE A DISASTER.
TOO TRUE.
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE JERSEY SWAMPS?
A MAN NAMED DR. EPHESUS SADD.

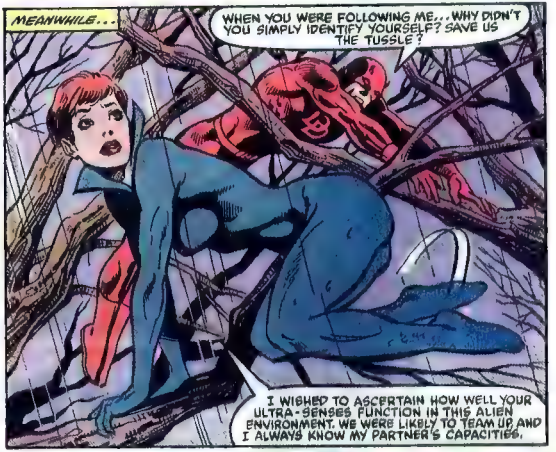

HE SOMEHOW GOT A SAMPLE OF DR. FEAR'S GAS--REMEMBER THAT?*
HOW COULD I FORGET? STUFF MADE ME STUPID WITH TERROR.
YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE.
*HE WAS ONE OF D.D.'S GREATEST FOES, FIRST SEEN WAY BACK IN DAREDEVIL #6. --RALPH
SO THIS GUY SADD'S GOT THE GAS. SO WHAT?
HE WENT TO POLAND AND THERE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SOVIETS DEVELOPED AND IMPROVED IT. THEN HE FELL FROM FAVOR AND DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE U.S.
AND THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN?
YES. WORKING AS A FREELANCE SECRET AGENT, I WAS TO ARRANGE A TRANSFER OF THE GAS TO A CERTAIN GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND THE TRANSFER OF SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS TO SADD. BUT AS YOU KNOW, THE PLANE SADD WAS ON DID NOT ARRIVE IN NEW YORK.
YOU, OF COURSE, SEEK GLORIANNA O'BREEN?
GOOD GUESS.
NO GUESS. I SAW A LIST OF THE PASSENGERS.
MATTHEW, DO YOU SHARE MY UNEASINESS? MY DOUBT? WE ARE CREATURES OF THE CITY, YOU AND I. WE ARE OUT OF OUR ELEMENT HERE. WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE DANGER UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE.
WE'LL HAVE TO DO THE BEST WE CAN, NATASHA.
NOT FAR AWAY...
YOU FOLLOWED, JUNIUS?
HOPE I WAS, 'CAUSE ANYBODY COME THROUGH THIS SWAMP DON'T KNOW IT LIKE WE DO IS GONNA GIT DEAD QUICK.
WHAT YOU BRUNG US, JUNIUS?
COUPLE PRIZES. GAL AND THE MAN I WAS HIRED TO KILL.

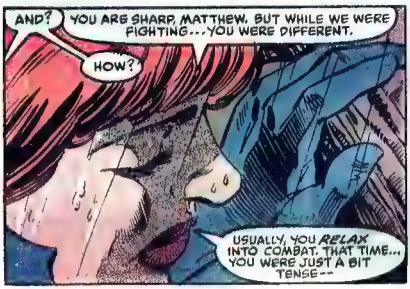
WHY YOU BRANG THE GAL FER?
FER DRAWLEY.

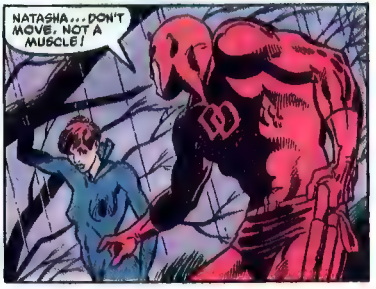
GAL, MEET BROTHER DRAWLEY.

SEE, DRAWLEY AIN'T NEVER HAD A GAL FRIEND. WE FIGGER IT'S 'BOUT TIME HE GOT MARRIED. YOU GONNA BE THE BRIDE.
'COURSE, AFTER THE HONEYMOON--

--WE GONNA HAFTA KILL YOU!


MEANWHILE...
WHEN YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME... WHY DIDN'T YOU SIMPLY IDENTIFY YOURSELF? SAVE US THE TUSSLE?
I WISHED TO ASCERTAIN HOW WELL YOUR ULTRA-SENSES FUNCTION IN THIS ALIEN ENVIRONMENT. WE WERE LIKELY TO TEAM UP AND I ALWAYS KNOW MY PARTNER'S CAPACITIES.

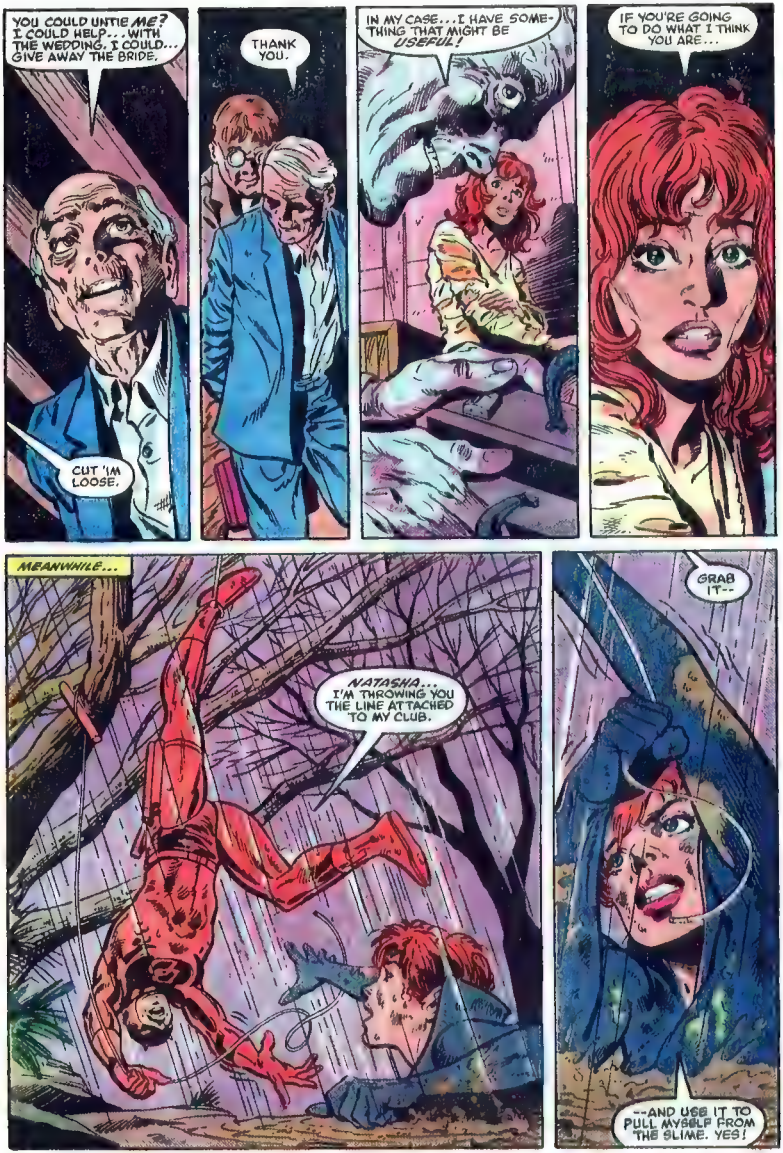

AND?
YOU ARE SHARP, MATTHEW. BUT WHILE WE WERE FIGHTING... YOU WERE DIFFERENT.
HOW?
USUALLY, YOU RELAX INTO COMBAT. THAT TIME... YOU WERE JUST A BIT TENSE--

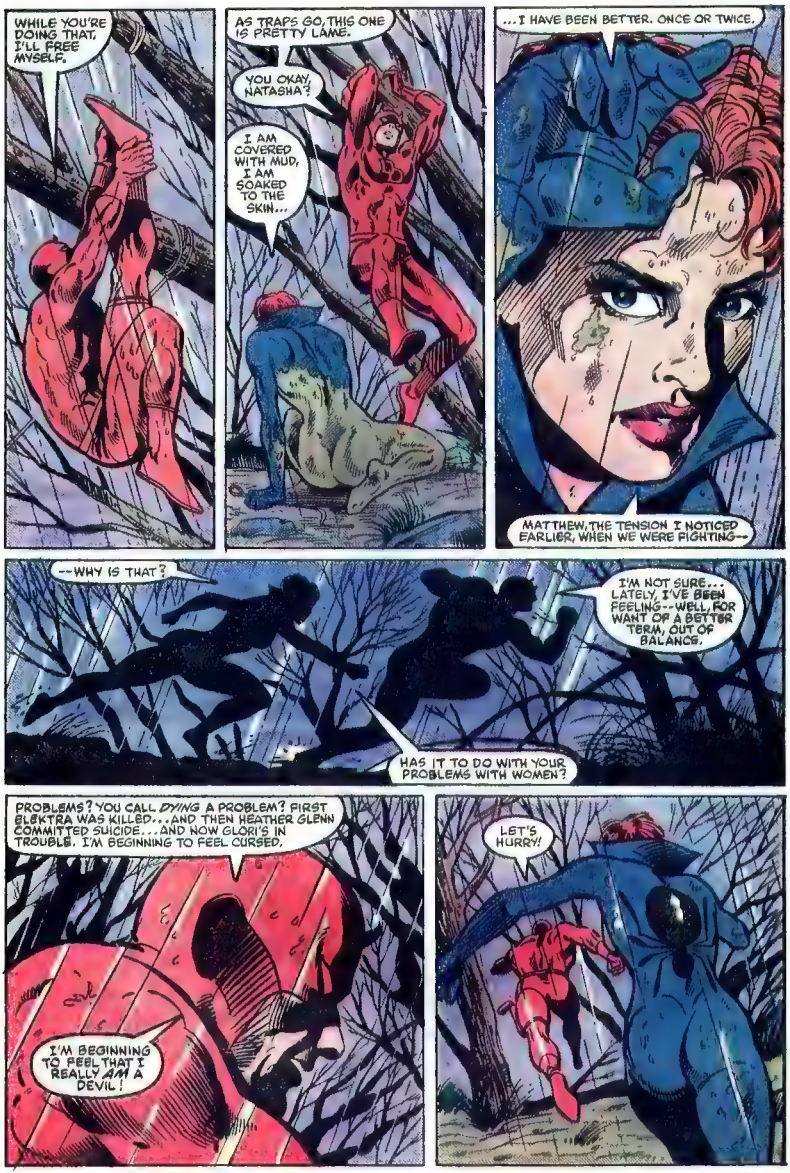

NATASHA... DON'T MOVE. NOT A MUSCLE!

THRUNK
THANK YOU, MATTHEW. I REALIZE NOW I NEED HAVE NO FEAR REGARDING YOUR SENSES.
BUT WE'LL HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL, AS YOU SAID, WE'RE OUT OF OUR ELEMENT.
I AGREE. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD--
SHHHHH
I'M GETTING USED TO THINGS HERE... ABLE TO DISTINGUISH AMONG SENSORY INPUTS... AND I CAN HEAR THEM MOVING THROUGH THE BRUSH... MAYBE A LITTLE LESS THAN A MILE AHEAD.
YOU BRUNG THE GAL FOR DRAWLEY. HOW 'BOUT THIS ONE. WHY'D YOU BRING HIM?
THEM POLISHES HIRED ME TO KILL HIM... WANTED ME TO DO IT ON AMERICAN SOIL. ONLY I GOT TO THINKING. MAYBE HE'S WORTH MORE ALIVE!

THE POLISHES WANT HIM DEAD... AND THE AMERICANS WANT HIM ALIVE. SO WE SELL HIM TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.
JUNIUS'S THE SMART ONE. LEFT THE SWAMP AND JOINED THE ARMY...THEN HE BECOME A PROFESSIONAL KILLER.
SHAME MAW DIDN'T LIVE TO SEE IT.
C'MON, HARBOR. WHAT YOU DOIN'?
SETTIN' A SURPRISE! CASE ANYBODY COMES TO FOLLOW US!
WE'RE CLOSING IN. GETTING CLOSE.
YOU SEEM EXCITED!
I AM.
THERE'S A FAINT ODOR OF PERFUME IN THE AIR... GLORI'S PERFUME.
MATTHEW... WHAT--
I GOT OVERCONFIDENT... STEPPED INTO A TRAP!

DO NOT FRET. I WILL CUT YOU DOWN.
MATTHEW!
I STEPPED INTO SOME KIND OF QUICKSAND! I AM SINKING! IN A FEW MOMENTS I WILL BE UNDER!
AHEAD...
GET ON DOWN THERE.
GET A MOVE ON.
MAW'S WEDDING DRESS. FIT THE GAL FINE.
I'LL BE THE MINISTER. I'LL MARRY 'EM.
I'LL BE BEST MAN.
DRAWLEY, HE'S THE GROOM.
GET THE GAL UNTIED SO'S SHE CAN DRESS.


YOU COULD UNTIE ME? I COULD HELP... WITH THE WEDDING. I COULD... GIVE AWAY THE BRIDE.
CUT 'IM LOOSE.
THANK YOU.
IN MY CASE... I HAVE SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO WHAT I THINK YOU ARE...
MEANWHILE...
NATASHA... I'M THROWING YOU THE LINE ATTACHED TO MY CLUB.
GRAB IT--
--AND USE IT TO PULL MYSELF FROM THE SLIME. YES!


WHILE YOU'RE DOING THAT, I'LL FREE MYSELF.
AS TRAPS GO, THIS ONE IS PRETTY LAME.
YOU OKAY, NATASHA?
I AM COVERED WITH MUD, I AM SOAKED TO THE SKIN...
...I HAVE BEEN BETTER. ONCE OR TWICE.
MATTHEW, THE TENSION I NOTICED EARLIER, WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING--
--WHY IS THAT?
I'M NOT SURE... LATELY, I'VE BEEN FEELING--WELL, FOR WANT OF A BETTER TERM, OUT OF BALANCE.
HAS IT TO DO WITH YOUR PROBLEMS WITH WOMEN?
PROBLEMS? YOU CALL *DYING* A PROBLEM? FIRST ELEKTRA WAS KILLED...AND THEN HEATHER GLENN COMMITTED SUICIDE...AND NOW GLORI'S IN TROUBLE. I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL CURSED.
I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL THAT I REALLY *AM* A DEVIL!
LET'S HURRY!

AHEAD--
BEFORE THE CEREMONY BEGINS, I WOULD LIKE TO DELIVER A... A SERMON! YES, A SERMON. ALWAYS AT WEDDINGS THERE IS SERMONIZING.
MY TOPIC WILL BE FEAR, IT IS A SUBJECT DEAR TO ME--
--A SUBJECT I HAVE STUDIED... A SUBJECT I CHERISH LIKE A CHILD.
I HAVE SEEN FEAR DRIVE MEN TO SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENTS AND CRUSH THEM LIKE INSECTS ... IT IS THE FORCE WHICH LIFTED MANKIND FROM THE PRIMEVAL OOZE AND WHICH KEEPS US FROM BEING AS ANGELS--
GIT ON WITH THE WEDDING.
YES, THE WEDDING. I HAVE BROUGHT A GIFT--!
NO! DON'T DO IT!
F-SSSSSSS
F-FUNNY SMELL...
EEEEE-YAAAHHH
YOU HEAR?
RUN, MATTHEW!

AND--
GOT TO HOLD MY BREATH TILL I GET OUTSIDE...OR I'LL BE AS RAVIN' AS THESE!
HOWEVER--
--REFLEXIVELY, SHE TAKES A BREATH...
THAT IS WHERE THE SCREAM CAME FROM, MATTHEW!
YOU READY?
AS I WILL EVER BE!
REMEMBER TO HOLD YOUR BREATH.

THEY ENTER--
--AND BURLEY MUDD SEES--
RAGHH
KHYCK
YOU HAD TO KICK HIM THAT HARD?
HE CAN COUNT HIMSELF LUCKY. HE
ALIVE.
NATASHA.
ANOTHER ONE.

THAT DID NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY GENTLE TO ME.
NOT AS GENTLE AS I'D LIKE IT TO BE. MAYBE I'M LOSING MY TOUCH.
SOMEONE'S BACK THERE. FAMILIAR SCENT--
--GLORIANNA!
GLORI... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO...NO...
NO NO NONONONO

UNNGHF
IT WAS NECESSARY, MATTHEW. AND SHE IS NOT BADLY HURT.
I KNOW. THAT TIME YOU WERE GENTLE.
BY THE WAY, WE CAN STOP HOLDING OUR BREATH.
I WAS EXPECTING TO FIND PEOPLE WHIMPERING IN TERROR...WHICH IS WHAT THE ORIGINAL MR. FEAR'S GAS CAUSED.
OBVIOUSLY, DR. SADD CHANGED THE FORMULA, GLORIANNA AND THE OTHERS ARE REACTING LIKE CORNERED RATS.
SPEAKING OF DR. SADD... I MUST FIND HIM. IT IS THE REASON I CAME.
I'LL COME WITH YOU. GLORIANNA WILL BE OKAY AND YOU MIGHT NEED HELP. THE SWAMP IS DANGEROUS.
--AND I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO NATASHA.
I ONCE LOVED HER, TOO. PART OF ME STILL DOES.
HE CANNOT HAVE GOTTEN FAR. YOUR ULTRA HEARING MAY BE ABLE TO DETECT--
NATASHA! ABOVE!

SATISFACTORY, MATTHEW?
VERY NICE, NATASHA. NOT TOO ROUGH, BUT EFFECTIVE.
I CAN HEAR SOMEONE RUNNING--
--HAS TO BE SADD!
I WONDER WHY THE GAS DIDN'T AFFECT HIM!
AN ANTIDOTE EXISTS. PERHAPS HE TOOK IT. IF THAT IS THE CASE, IT WILL HAVE WORN OFF BY NOW.
HE'S JUST AHEAD.
YES, I SEE HIM.
DR. SADD... IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD TO RUN FURTHER.

SHAKT
T-THE GAS... RIGHT IN MY FACE...
AND THE ANTIDOTE... NOT EFFECTIVE...
GYAHHHHHH
HE'S DEAD. SCARED TO DEATH. I COULD HEAR HIS HEART HAMMERING...UNTIL IT BROKE. IRONIC... THAT THE GAS HE DEVELOPED KILLED HIM.
BUT IT DID NOT.
THERE IS A BULLET HOLE IN THIS CANNISTER--AND SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO GUNPLAY TONIGHT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN PUT THERE ON THE PLANE.
THE CANNISTER WAS EMPTY.
HE WAS FRIGHTENED BY...NOTHING AT ALL.
END